

VZCZCXRO8594
PP RUEHDBU RUEHFL RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHNP RUEHROV RUEHSR
DE RUEHLO #0956/01 1141640
ZNY CCCCC ZZB
P 241640Z APR 09
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2094
INFO RUEH2L/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 LONDON 000956

NOFORN
SIPDIS

EO 12958 DECL: 04/24/2019
TAGS PGOV, PREL, UK
SUBJECT: UK POLITICAL SNAPSHOT: GLOOMY BUDGET AND A NEW
SCANDAL TORPEDO BROWN'S POLL NUMBERS

REF: A. LONDON 949 B. LONDON 831 C. 08 LONDON 2163

Classified By: PolMinCouns Gregory Berry, reasons 1.4 b, d

1. (C/NF) Key points:

-- Poll numbers for PM Gordon Brown and his Labour Party have dropped following the April 22 budget presentation, with an April 24 poll showing
-- The past two weeks have been wretched for Brown and Labour, who have endured a gloomy budget presentation and a particularly ugly new scandal
-- Brown's attempts to close loop holes in the parliamentary Second Homes Allowances, which according to media reports many of the most senior

Labour Poll Numbers Collapse Following Gloomy Budget, New Scandal

12. (SBU) David Cameron and the opposition Conservative Party have an 18 point lead in the polls over Gordon Brown and the Labour Party, accord

13. (C/NF) The causes of this collapse in Brown and Labour's poll numbers, which had rebounded slightly following the G-20 before subsiding again

14. (C/NF) McBride resigned on April 11, claiming that he had merely written up a list of "stories doing the rounds in Westminster," and that he
LONDON 00000956 002 OF 003
for any such tactics coming out of No. 10. After private written apologies to the parties concerned didn't work, Brown apologized personally for

"Smeargate" wrecks Gordon Brown's Plans for Early Elections

15. (C/NF) Perhaps most damaging of all, however, Smeargate effectively ended what may have been Brown's plan to call a general election this spring.
Opposition Parties Oppose Plans To Abolish Second Homes Allowance

16. (SBU) At the same time as the budget and Smeargate dominated the headlines, Brown and Labour were continuing to take media fire over the cost

Comment

17. (C/NF) While the media has begun to trot out the usual pundits who claim that Brown can't last until the next election, as we have reported
LONDON 00000956 003 OF 003
process of rebuilding.
Visit London's Classified Website: http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/Portal:Unit ed_Kingdom
LEBARON